

**Remarks**

The final Office Action mailed August 9, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-25 and 27-41 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-25 and 27-41 stand rejected. Claim 26 has been canceled.

The objection to the declaration is respectfully traversed. At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the declaration is defective because it “lacks a signature” and “does not identify the specification.” However, Applicant respectfully submits that a proper declaration, signed by the inventor and identifying the application by application number and filing date, was filed in this application with a Response to Notice To File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application filed on April 25, 2000. A copy of the Response To Notice To File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application filed on April 25, 2000, including a copy of the executed declaration filed therewith, (3 pages total) is submitted herewith.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the declaration be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-25 and 27-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by “Networked VR System: Kitchen Layout Design for Customers” by Fukuda et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Fukuda”) is respectfully traversed.

Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the Internet and edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space. After reviewing and editing the preliminary design on the internet, customers are able to send the preliminary design to a showroom and schedule a final review of the design with a design specialist in the showroom. Notably, Fukuda neither describes nor suggests causing at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the user.

Claim 1 recites a method of managing building options including “obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building; causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmittal of a valid authorization by the second user; providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user; obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option; and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user.”

Fukuda does not describe or suggest a method of managing building options as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Fukuda does not describe or suggest a method of managing building options that includes obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building, and causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the Internet, edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space, send the preliminary design to a showroom, and schedule a final review of the design with a design specialist in the showroom.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda.

Claims 2-14 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-14 are likewise patentable over Fukuda.

Claim 15 recites a system of managing building options including “a first processor adapted to obtain from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option; and a second processor adapted to allow the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmittal of a valid authorization by the second user, said second processor adapted to obtain electronically from said second

user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option, and said second processor adapted to provide the at least one choice to said first user.”

Fukuda does not describe or suggest a system of managing building options as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, Fukuda does not describe or suggest a system of managing building options that includes a first processor adapted to obtain from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option and a second processor adapted to allow the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the internet, edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space, send the preliminary design to a showroom, and schedule a final review of the design with a design specialist in the showroom.

Accordingly, Claim 15 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda.

Claims 16-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 16-25 are likewise patentable over Fukuda.

Claim 27 recites at least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of managing building options, the method including “obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building; causing the at least one available option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmittal of a valid authorization by the second user; providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user; obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option; and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user.”

Fukuda does not describe or suggest a method of managing building options as recited in Claim 27. More specifically, Fukuda does not describe or suggest a method of managing building options including obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building and causing the at least one available option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the internet, edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space, send the preliminary design to a showroom, and schedule a final review of the design with a design specialist in the showroom.

Accordingly, Claim 27 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda.

Claims 28-40 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 27. When the recitations of Claims 28-40 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 27, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 28-40 are likewise patentable over Fukuda.

Claim 41 recites a system for managing building options including “means for obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building; means for causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmittal of a valid authorization by the second user; means for providing information electronically on the at least one new building option to said second user; means for obtaining electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option; and means for providing the indication of the at least one choice to said first user.”

Fukuda does not describe or suggest a system for managing building options as recited in Claim 41. More specifically, Fukuda does not describe or suggest a system for managing building options that includes means for obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building and means for

causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a networked virtual reality kitchen design system that allows customers to create a preliminary kitchen design on the internet, edit the preliminary design in three-dimensional space, send the preliminary design to a showroom, and schedule a final review of the design with a design specialist in the showroom.

Accordingly, Claim 41 is submitted as being patentable over Fukuda.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-25 and 27-41 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric T. Krischke  
Registration No. 42,769  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Paul Allan Ryder

Serial No. 09/480,343

Filed: January 10, 2000

Title: Method, System, and Program Product for Managing Building Options

Examiner:

Group Art Unit:

RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF APPLICATIONHonorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Box Missing Parts

SIR:

In response to the Notice to File Missing Parts of Application (Form PTO-1533), April 19, 2000, attached is a properly signed declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63 identifying the subject application by Application Number and Filing Date.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee of \$130.00, plus any additional fees which may be required, to Deposit Account Number 07-0844.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231, on 4/25/00

GEORGE L. RIDEOUT, JR.

Name of applicant, inventor, or

Registered Representative

George L. Rideout, Jr.

Signature

Date

Respectfully submitted,

George L. Rideout, Jr.

George L. Rideout, Jr.

Reg. No. 43,880

(502) 452-7792

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FORMALITIES LETTER



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENT AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING/RECEIPT DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
09/480,343	01/10/2000	Paul Allan Ryder	9D-EC-19343-Ryder

George L Rideout Jr  
General Electric Company  
Appliance Park 2-225  
Louisville, KY 40225

RECEIVED

APR 24 2000

LEGAL OPERATION

Date Mailed: 04/19/2000

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(b)

*Filing Date Granted*

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this application. The item(s) indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The oath or declaration is unsigned.
- To avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(e) of \$130 for a non-small entity, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.
- The balance due by applicant is \$ 169.

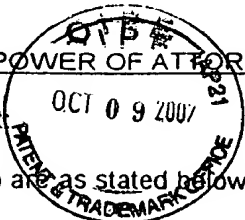
*A copy of this notice MUST be returned with the reply.*

Customer Service Center

Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

PART 2 - COPY TO BE RETURNED WITH RESPONSE

COPY



As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled Method, System and Program Product for Managing Building Options, the specification of which:

(check ☐ is attached hereto.

one) ☒ was filed on January 10, 2000 as Application Serial No. 09/480,343 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

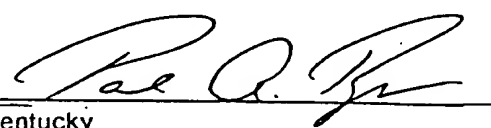
I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby appoint H. Neil Houser, Reg. No. 28,859, Legal Operation, Appliance Park 2-225, Louisville, KY 40225; and George L. Rideout, Jr., Reg. No. 43,880, Legal Operation, Appliance Park 2-225, Louisville, KY 40225, and H.J. Policinski, Reg. No. 26,621, General Electric Company, 3135 Easton Turnpike, Bldg. W3D, Fairfield, CT 06431-0001, jointly, and each of them severally, my attorneys and attorney, with full power of substitution, delegation and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. I hereby direct that all correspondence and telephone calls in connection with this application be addressed to the said George L. Rideout, Jr., General Electric Company, at Appliance Park 2-225, Louisville, Kentucky 40225; (502) 452-7792  
(mailing address) (Telephone No.)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor Paul Allan Ryder

Inventor's signature   
Residence Louisville, Kentucky  
Citizenship United States  
Post Office Address 7501 Turner Ridge Road, Crestwood, KY 40014

Date 4/17/00

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